

Message Text

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REF: STATE 155318

PRESIDENT GIOSAN, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE ROMANIAN
GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ESTEEMED GUESTS:

I AM HONORED TOHEAD THE FIRST OFFICIAL DELEGATION
FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO VISIT ROMANIA.
OUR DELEGATION IS DELIGHTED TO BE IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL
CUNTRY AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH OUR ROMANIAN
COLLEAGUES.

I STRESS THE WORD "OFFICIAL" DELEGATION - IN RECENT
YEARS THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN MANY CONTACTS AMONG OUR
PARLIAMENTARIANS. LAST YEAR MANY OF OUR MEMBERS
ATTENDED THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING HERE
IN BUCHAREST. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TRULY OFFICIAL
MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO
LEGISLATURES.

MOST OF US ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT
NONE OF US FEEL LIKE STRANGERS TO ROMANIA. THE
SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO VISITED HERE BEFORE
RETURNED TO TELL US BEING IMPRESSED BY THE PROGRESS
YOUR COUNTRY HAS MADE, BY THE NATURAL AND HUMAN
RESOURCES IT POSSESSES, AND BY THE DETERMINATION OF
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ITS LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE ON ALL ROUND ECONOMIC AND

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND AN INDEPENDENT POSITION IN THE WORLD. AND LET ME SAY THAT IN THE UNITED STATES IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ARE HARD TO IMPRESS -- JUST ASK PRESIDENT FORD OR ANYONE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

IN THIS CONNECTION, WE PARTICULARLY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR RECENT FLOOD LOSSES AND WISH YOU SUCCESS IN SPEEDILY RESTORING THE MATERIAL AND HUMAN DAMAGE.

ROMANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, MR. PRESIDENT, ARE GOOD. I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE CONGRESS HAS DONE ITS PART IN THE ASCENDING COURSE OF THESE RELATIONS. WE FULLY SUPPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WHICH ARE GOING FORWARD UNDER OUR NEW FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST DECEMBER. LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT EXCHANGES OF YOUNG TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS -- I COME FROM A POOR FAMILY IN OKLAHOMA BUT I MANAGED TO GET AN EDUCATION AND THEN A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP TO OXFORD. FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO CEMENT BETTER RELATIONS THAN THROUGH THE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF OUR YOUNG FUTURE LEADERS AND SCHOLARS. WE HOPE YOU AGREE -- AND CAN TELL IT TO THE BUREAUCRACY*

WE IN CONGRESS HAVE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION ALSO TO OUR EXPANDING ECONOMIC TIES. OUR TRADE HAS REACHED NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR BUT THIS IS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. GREATER POSSIBILITIES CLEARLY EXIST. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I AM GOING TO DO ALL I CAN TO WORK FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS FOR ROMANIA AND FOR REALIZING THIS COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL. (ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE IF MFN ALREADY PASSED: JUST A FEW DAYS AGO THE CONGRESS APPROVED OUR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AND MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS. NOW LET US GO AHEAD AND WORK FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT TO INCREASE TRADE ACCORDINGLY.)

LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS.
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WE WANT TO DEVELOP THEM IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY POSSIBLE. LET US GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS AND TALK OVER THE REAL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN COMMERCE AND TRADE FACILITATION, CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, OR HUMANITARIAN MATTERS. WHY NOT WORK OUT SOME WAY OF KEEPING OUR LEGISLATORS IN TOUCH -- BY AREA OF SPECIALTY -- OVER THE LONGER

TERM IN A MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED WAY?

PRESIDENT GIOSAN, I COME FROM OKLAHOMA. YOU HAVE VISITED THE UNITED STATES AND YOU KNOW THAT OKLAHOMA HAS MUCH IN COMMON WITH ROMANIA: ROLLING FIELDS OF WHEAT AND CORN, FORESTS OF OIL DERRICKS, AND MUCH INDUSTRY BESIDES. WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TOO, MR. PRESIDENT: THE OPEN, HONEST GOODWILL OF SIMPLE ORDINARY FOLK TOWARD ROMANIA AND ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH WISHES TO ACHIEVE FOR ITSELF A BETTER AND MORE DECENT LIFE AND TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

SO, MR. PRESIDENT, I AND MY DELEGATION WISH TO SAY THIS: WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION TO VISIT ROMANIA; AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO ENJOYING A CORDIAL, STRAIGHTFORWARD, FRANK DIALOGUE -- WITH BUT ONE PURPOSE IN MIND -- TO SEE HOW WE IN CONGRESS CAN IMPROVE THE ALREADY GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT POLITICAL DECLARATION SIGNED BY OUR TWO PRESIDENTS TWO YEARS AGO.

ALLOW ME TO RAISE MY GLASS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO YOUR HEALTH, TO THE HEALTH OF ALL THOSE PRESENT, TO OUR TWO PRESIDENTS CEAUSESCU AND FORD, TO THE CONTINUED WELL BEING, PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES. TO THE ROMANIAN AND KABRICAN PEOPLES*
BARNES

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